MEMBER'S ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

March 6-8, 2023 Virtual Meeting

MEMBER'S NAME

Laura Brewington

ORGANIZATION

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ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The Global Institute of Sustainability and Innovation is the hub of Arizona State University's sustainability research initiatives. The institute advances research and business practices for a rapidly changing world. The East-West Center promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue.

PRIORITIES / ACTIVITIES FOR FY2023

In 2020, Dr. Brewington co-founded a new climate change and invasive species working group made up natural resource managers and climate science practitioners in Hawaii and the US-Affiliated Pacific Islands. This working group, the Pacific Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change (RISCC) management network, has the overarching goal of improving Pacific environmental security by addressing two compound drivers of biodiversity loss—climate change and invasive species. FY2023 activities will prioritize the following main objectives: 1) responding to the needs and gaps identified in a Pacific RISCC natural resource manager survey conducted in 2020; 2) supporting implementation of Pacific-wide Strategic Action Plans that were developed during the 2022 Pacific Ecological Security Conference (PESC), co-organized by Dr. Brewington; and 3) expanding the Pacific RISCC network and the information and services it provides for researchers and natural resource managers within the region. Below is a summary of planned activities to meet each objective:

Objs 1-2: An invasive species and climate change project specialist position will be created in one of the Freely Associated States of Micronesia to support management efforts across our broad network. This position will develop and prioritize an applied research agenda that addresses key gaps between existing science and the information needs of invasive species managers. It will also promote relevant science taking place outside of Hawaii for a more representative regional perspective on the dual impacts of climate change and invasive species. Furthermore, adding capacity to the network will enable Pacific RISCC to align climate resilience and conservation efforts with implementation of the PESC Strategic Action Plans, the Regional Biosecurity Plan for Micronesia and Hawaii, the Micronesia Challenge, and the UN Local2030 Island Hub to ensure targets are achievable and measurable.
Obj 3: A Science Advisory Board that is representative of the region's diverse scientific and traditional knowledge will be established. The Board will provide ongoing, meaningful guidance for research and ensure that our work responds to the needs of the broader Pacific natural resource management community. We will also extend the webinar series and disseminate regular invasive species and climate change literature summaries tailored for manager audiences within our network.